

**St Oswald’s Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary and Nursery School**

 **Autumn Term 2017 Newsletter**

*Welcome to the new school year, we hope you all had a fantastic summer break. We particularly welcome the new families who have joined the school and hope that your association with the school is a long and happy one.*

*Personally, I am very much looking forward to my first year at St Oswald’s and feel blessed to have been welcomed with such warmth and enthusiasm. I look forward to developing relationships with you all and to seeing our pupils grow and develop.*

*Mrs Hassall*

**School Meals**

Please remember that the school office must be informed in writing if your child is changing from packed lunches to school dinners or vice-versa. You are also reminded that Key Stage One and Reception children receive universal free school meals at present. Regardless of this, if you are in receipt of some form of income support, your child may be entitled to Pupil Premium which is a sum of money paid to the school for eligible children in Nursery and School. If you think your child may be entitled to this, please contact Mrs Clift in the school office.

**Dinner Money: Nursery and Years 3-6 only**

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are all entitled to a school meal at no charge. For Nursery children and children in years 3-6 school meals are charged at £2.00 per day (or £2.40 per day for Sunshine Club, due to VAT). Dinner money for this half term is £68.00 [October half term] and £146.00 for the full term [end of Autumn term]. **Please ensure that all Parentpay accounts are kept in credit.**

* Dinner money for Nursery 2.5 days beginning of the week is £26.00 [to October half term]
* Dinner money for Nursery 2.5 days end of the week is £28.00 [to October half term]
* Dinner money for 30 hour Nursery £68.00 [to October half term]

Please note there could be a delay of 14 days for the credit to reach your Parentpay account. If you are unable to use ParentPay payments can be made via the school office in the form of Cash or Cheques which need to be made payable to Durham County Council.

**Parentmail: Newsletters by e-mail**

We send weekly newsletter bulletins to parents using Parentmail and very much encourage everyone to sign up for these. All new children will receive either an email or a text to register. Please sign up as soon as possible. We do send paper copies to those who request them but this has proven to be the quickest and easiest way to ensure that you are kept up-to-date. If you currently receive paper communication I would encourage you to email office@stoswaldsdurham.net with details of your email address. For new parents, we will send paper copies of any letters for the first two weeks.

**Urgent Messages**

We endeavour to send any urgent messages via the school’s text messaging service and also post these on our Twitter feed @stoswaldsdurham (this also appears on the school website). Urgent messages may include those relating to school emergency closures. Please ensure that the school office if kept up-to-date with any ***changes to your mobile phone number***.

**Parentpay**
We encourage the use of Parentpay for all types of payment, from school meals to afterschool clubs. However, should you need to pay by cheque please ensure that all cheques coming into school have your child’s name, address and class on the back of the cheque. These should be placed in an envelope with your child’s name on the front and what the money is for e.g. football club. Thank you for your help with this matter.

**Sunshine Club Holiday Club**

A holiday club will take place over the October half term. Please visit the Sunshine Club section of the school website to download a booking form. Please note that holiday club will be open on Monday 30th October (school INSET day).

**Sunshine Club: After School Club**

If you make any changes to your child’s after-school club booking then it is essential that you inform the Sunshine Club Manager and the **school office** via telephone or email. Please note that emails are not always read immediately so messages of this nature should not be sent after midday for changes taking place that day. This is particularly important when ad-hoc additional session bookings are made.

**School Uniform**

Please ensure school uniform items and coats are named. Children will sometimes mistakenly take an item of clothing belonging to another child home but this is generally returned if it has a name written in. Please ensure that children have a clearly named coat each day for use during playtimes. Nursery pupils are asked to keep a spare full change of clothing on their peg in case of toilet or wet play changing being required.

**PE kit all classes apart from Nursery**

Parents of children in the above year groups are reminded to bring a bag containing gym shoes, coloured t-shirt to represent their school house colour, black shorts and a pair of jogging bottoms. These should be left in school on your child’s peg and all items should be named including the gym shoes. If you have any shorts your child has grown out of, donations would be gratefully accepted. PE kits only go home at half term for washing because they often do not come back into school. If the kit looks dirty, we will send it home for washing. Please note that a drawstring PE bag is the best option for storing kit on pegs. The space in our cloakrooms is limited and larger bags cannot be accommodated.

**Book Bags**

It is important that all pupils have a book bag. Please check your child’s bag each evening for any correspondence from school. You can also use this bag to send any correspondence/money to school. Each morning your child will be asked to check his/her bag to see if there are any items for the teacher and/or school office. Book bags can be purchased from the uniform website. Please note that Nursery parents are asked to place any letters or other items returned into the basket in the nursery because the children are too young to remember to check their own bags for returned items. Book bags are taken into the classrooms and should be of a normal book bag size and shape in order to fit into a school tray.

**Water Bottles and Milk**

Water bottles are available from the office at the price of £1.50 and new reception pupils are issued with their first bottle for free by their teachers. Please make sure that your child has a water bottle in school as it is vitally important that they have access to water throughout the day. The bottles should be taken home for regular cleaning. This does not apply to pupils in Nursery who are provided with jugs of water or milk. Free milk is also available to children younger than 5 in the Reception year group. Older pupils can have milk through the Cool Milk scheme. Parents should register on <http://www.coolmilk.co.uk> for this scheme. Reception parents should register well in advance of their child’s 5th birthday if they wish to continue their child receiving milk when they have turned 5.

**Diary Dates**

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| **Event** | **Time/Date** |
| **Harvest Service at St Oswald’s Church (please note nursery do not attend this service)** | Tuesday 26th September 2017– 9.15am |
| **Y6 SATs Meeting** | Wednesday 27th September 2017 5.15pm-5.45pm detail to follow |
| **Full Governing Body meeting** | Thursday 9th 2017 November 4.00 pm |
| **School closes for Autumn half term holiday** | Friday 20th 2017 October  |
| **Half term holiday. Sunshine Club holiday club open**  | Monday 23rd October– Friday 28th October and Monday 30st October 2017 ( School INSET day) |
| **INSET day**  | Monday 30th October2017 |
| **School re-opens** | Tuesday 31st October 2017 |
| **Kingsgate (Y5/6) Class Worship** | Friday 10th November – 9.00am 2017 |
| **Parent-teacher consultation meetings for Elvet, Dunelm, Neville and Kingsgate classes)** | Week beginning 13th November 2017 – full details to follow. |
| **Parent-teacher consultation meetings for Nursery**  | To be confirmed |
| **Tempest Photography for individual and sibling photographs** | Wednesday 15th November 2017 |
| **Children in Need (fundraising theme/activity to be announced)** | Friday 17th November 2017 |
| **Christingle Church Service** | Tuesday 1st December 2017 9.15 am |
| **Nursery Theatre Trip** | Wednesday 6th December 2017 pm |
| **Nursery Nativity**  | Tuesday 12th December 2017  |
| **Key Stage 2 Carols at the institute – Tuesday club** | Tuesday 12th December 2017 |
| **School Nativity**  | Wednesday 12th December 2017 pm Thursday 14th December2017 am  |
| **School Christmas Dinner** | Wednesday 13th December 2017 |
| **Nursery pm Nativity**  | Thursday 14th December 2017  |
| **Nursery Christmas party** | Wednesday 20th December2017 |
| **Church service** | Thursday 21st December 2017 9.15am |
| **Theatre Trip** | To be confirmed |
| **School Christmas party** | To be confirmed  |
| **Last day before the Christmas holidays** | Friday 22nd December 2017 |
| **Christmas holiday**  | Monday 25th December 2017- Friday 7th January 2018 |
| **School re-opens**  | Monday 8th January 2018 |

**Clubs and Extra Curricular Activities**

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| **Club/Activity** | **Date/Time** |
| **Recorder club**  | Wednesday 20th September:12:00-12:25 (Y3)Friday 22nd September: 12:00-12:25 (Y4-Y6) |
| **Violin Club** | Wednesday 20th September 2017 12:30-12:55 (Y2) |
| **Lingotots Club**  | To be confirmed |
| **Chess Club** | Monday 11th September 3.15 – 4.10 pm |
| **Year 5/6 Football Training** | Tuesday 12th September: 3.15-4.15pm |
| **KS2 Gymnastics Club** | Thursday 14th September: 3.15-4.15pm |
| **Football League - Year 5/6 Football Team** | Thursday 14th September: 3.15-5.00pm |
| **Reception & KS1 Gymnastics Club** | Friday 15th September: 3.15-4.15pm |
| **KS2 Cross County** | Wednesday 4th October am |
| **Soccertots Festival**  | Tuesday 10th October am (Y2) |
| **Tri-Golf Festival** | Thursday 12th October am (Y4) |
| **Quicksticks Hockey Festival** | Tuesday 17th October am (Y3/Y4) |
| **Quicksticks Hockey Festival** | Thursday 19th October am (Y5/Y6) |
| **Cookery Club**  | Monday 6th November 3.15 – 4.00 pm |
| **KS2 Film Club** | Friday 10th November: 3.15-4.15pm |